

Oksapmin language

Oksapmin is a Trans–New Guinea language spoken in Oksapmin Rural LLG, Telefomin District, Sandaun, Papua New Guinea. The two principal dialects are distinct enough to cause some problems with mutually intelligibility.

Oksapmin has dyadic kinship terms^[3] and a body-part counting system that goes up to 27.^[4]

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Classification

Oksapmin has been influenced by the Mountain Ok languages (the name "Oksapmin" is from Telefol), and the similarities with those languages were attributed to borrowing in the classifications of both Stephen Wurm (1975) and Malcolm Ross (2005), where Oksapmin was placed as an independent branch of Trans–New Guinea. Loughnane (2009)^[5] and Loughnane and Fedden (2011)^[6] conclude that it is related to the Ok languages, though those languages share innovative features not found in Oksapmin. Usher finds Oksapmin is not related to the Ok languages specifically, though it is related at some level to the southwestern branches of Trans–New Guinea.

Phonology

Vowels

There are seven monophthongs, /i e ə a o ʌ u/, and one diphthong, /ai/.

Consonants

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------|
| Oksapmin | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oksap | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>nuxule merj</i> 'our language' | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Native to | Papua New Guinea | | | | | | | | | | |
| Region | Oksapmin Rural LLG, Telefomin District, Sandaun | | | | | | | | | | |
| Native speakers | (8,000 cited 1991) ^[1] | | | | | | | | | | |
| Language family | Trans–New Guinea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oksapmin | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dialects | Upper Oksapmin Lower Oksapmin | | | | | | | | | | |
| Writing system | Latin | | | | | | | | | | |
| Language codes | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ISO 639-3 | opm | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glottolog | oksa1245 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/oksa1245) ^[2] | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Map: The Oksapmin language of New Guinea <table border="1"> <tr> <td>■</td> <td>The Oksapmin language</td> </tr> <tr> <td>■</td> <td>Other Trans–New Guinea languages</td> </tr> <tr> <td>■</td> <td>Other Papuan languages</td> </tr> <tr> <td>■</td> <td>Austronesian languages</td> </tr> <tr> <td>■</td> <td>Uninhabited</td> </tr> </table> | | ■ | The Oksapmin language | ■ | Other Trans–New Guinea languages | ■ | Other Papuan languages | ■ | Austronesian languages | ■ | Uninhabited |
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| ■ | Other Papuan languages | | | | | | | | | | |
| ■ | Austronesian languages | | | | | | | | | | |
| ■ | Uninhabited | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | Bilabial | Alveolar | Palatal | Velar | |
|------|-------------|----------|----------|---------|-----------|----------------|
| | | | | | Unrounded | Rounded |
| Stop | Voiceless | p | t | | k | k ^w |
| | Voiced | b | d | | g | g ^w |
| | Fricative | | s | | x | x ^w |
| | Nasal | m | n | | ŋ | ŋ ^w |
| | Flap | | r | | | |
| | Approximant | | | j | | w |

Tone

Oksapmin contrasts two tones: high and low.

References

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2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Oksapmin" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/oksa1245>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. The Oksapmin Kinship System (<http://conferences.arts.usyd.edu.au/program.php?cf=19>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090920071406/http://conferences.arts.usyd.edu.au/program.php?cf=19>) 2009-09-20 at the [Wayback Machine](#), retrieved May 21, 2009.
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5. Loughnane (2009)
6. Loughnane, Robyn; Fedden, Sebastian (2011). "Is Oksapmin Ok?—A Study of the Genetic Relationship between Oksapmin and the Ok Languages" (<http://epubs.surrey.ac.uk/792226/3/Loughnane%2C%20R.%20and%20S.%20Fedden%20-%20Is%20Oksapmin%20Ok.pdf>) (PDF). *Australian Journal of Linguistics*. 31 (1): 1–42. doi:10.1080/07268602.2011.533635 (<https://doi.org/10.1080%2F07268602.2011.533635>).
- Loughnane, Robyn (2009). *A grammar of Oksapmin* (<http://minerva-access.unimelb.edu.au/handle/11343/35153>) (PhD thesis). The University of Melbourne. [hdl:11343/35153](https://hdl.handle.net/11343%2F35153) (<https://hdl.handle.net/11343%2F35153>).

External links

- Timothy Usher, New Guinea World, [Oksap](https://sites.google.com/site/newguineaworld/families/trans-new-guinea/oksap) (<https://sites.google.com/site/newguineaworld/families/trans-new-guinea/oksap>)

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